

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### HINCHEY RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) this evening offered the following remarks in response to President Bush's address to Congress:

"Tonight the president spoke about the war on terrorism, which has been most visible in Afghanistan. I stand with my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, in support of the president's efforts against terrorism. I recently traveled to Afghanistan and Central Asia and have seen first hand the clear-eyed competence with which our military men and women execute the most complex tasks while human lives hang in the balance. Our armed forces, including the commander-in-chief, have my full support.

"September 11 has summoned forth deep, sincere expressions of patriotism from the president and all Americans. But patriotism should not be limited to military acts overseas. It should extend to people here at home who are out of work or who have lost their healthcare. While President Bush briefly touched on the need to assist these Americans, his economic plan will not provide them with the help they need. And while the president says his focus is on jobs, his record says otherwise. Since the recession started in March we have lost a total of 1.3 million jobs and the unemployment rate has jumped from four percent to 5.8 percent.

"I am disappointed that the president continues to push for the economic stimulus package written by the House Republicans despite the fact the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has found that it will do little to boost our economy. CBO was particularly critical of the Republican plan to abolish the corporate alternative minimum tax, shelter the overseas income of financial holding companies, and accelerate the tax cuts for those in the highest tax brackets. Not only will these measures fail to provide the needed stimulus, they will place a greater tax burden on middle class blue-collar and white-collar workers.

"President Bush also touted his energy plan as a job creator. It is nothing of the sort. The plan's reliance on more drilling and its refusal to invest in new energy technologies will increase our dependence on foreign oil and squander an outstanding opportunity to create high-paying American jobs. Energy companies may benefit from the president's plan but energy consumers will not.

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"Acknowledging that the federal budget will run a deficit, the president called on Congress to restrain spending and act in a fiscally responsible way. But the main reason we have gone from budget surplus to budget deficit is the fiscally irresponsible tax cut the White House pushed through last year. The benefits of that tax cut went almost entirely to the wealthiest Americans while those who needed the most help received no significant boost.

"I agree with a number of points made by President Bush tonight. The expansion of our national volunteer programs is an admirable goal. New safeguards need to be put in place to protect workers from losing their life savings, as was the case at Enron.

"Domestic security should be among our highest priorities. This must include economic security for America's hardworking men and women who are struggling through difficult times. We cannot neglect their suffering, but must respond with measures that are targeted at their needs. Without this, the president's message for America leaves far too many of us behind."